

# Egremont News

Issue 79 January, 2015

# **Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:**

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter.

#### **Selectmen:**

# **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

The Board of Selectmen hopes that each and every member of the community had a very Merry and/or Happy Christmas, Hanukkah, Holiday, and wish you a safe and prosperous New Year. We also wish to thank all of the boards and committee members of the town who give so much of their time for the betterment of Egremont. We thank our Police and Fire Department personnel for the exceptional and professional way in which you serve and protect us. Thank you to all of the employees of our great town for all that you do in the service of our community.

There has been some discussion regarding the purchase of a surplus dump truck for the town highway department as a result of a vote taken at last year's town meeting. The history behind this issue is that last year several months prior to the town meeting it became apparent that the Fire Department was very close to completing the specifications for bid on a new fire truck. Chairman Turner of the Selectboard, working with other members of the Fire Department, saw this as a possible opportunity to repurpose the truck that would be replaced and convert it to a dump truck for the highway department and potentially realize significant savings for the town. At the town meeting a voter moved to change the article regarding the repurposing of the Fire Truck to a motion to purchase a dump truck from military surplus for a sum not to exceed \$4800.00. The amended motion was approved.

The Board has investigated the purchase of a military surplus dump truck this year but has yet to identify a vehicle for the requisite amount

voted on that is in good working condition, and meets the originally intended needs of the Town. That said, we continue to pursue all opportunities within the Military Surplus system to identify a suitable truck for purchase. If that is not done this year, the money allocated by the voters will be rolled into the next fiscal year until a suitable vehicle is located as per the wishes of the community.

Budget season is getting underway in preparation for the upcoming town meeting. Over the course of the next 5 months you may hear a lot of discussion regarding the following term.

**Certified Free Cash:** \$341,974.00. Free cash is generated when actual revenue collections are in excess of estimates, when expenditures are less than appropriations, or both.

Factors that affect free cash are: actual revenues and expenditures versus amounts budgeted as stated above; the amount of collections on property taxes, excise taxes, fees and state aid; the amount spent in the previous year and deficits in both the general fund and other funds. Once free cash is certified, it is available for appropriation at the annual or any special town meeting. <sup>1</sup>

Over the past several years, free cash has been used to fund capital purchases, special projects, the stabilization fund, as well as other items.

Appropriation of free cash is recommended by the Board of Selectmen, reviewed by the Finance Committee, and approved by you, the voter, at town meeting.

We want to begin to provide you with this information so you will be able to monitor and review the town's finances as an informed citizen and are prepared to address the annual budget and spending plan that will be presented to you for your approval at town meeting.

Thank your for your support and affording us the opportunity to represent you as your elected Selectmen.

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services; *A Guide to Financial Management for Town Officials*.

# Town Meeting:

Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Deadline for articles is Monday, March 16, 2015. The warrant will be posted and available Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

Annual Town Election is Tuesday, May 12, 2015. Nomination papers are available early in March.

# **Town Clerk:**

You will be receiving your 2015 Census Form shortly after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. Your prompt return of this form ensures your continued status as an active voter. If you have questions or do not receive a form please contact me at 528-0182 ext 11.

#### **Tax Collector:**

# Real Estate & Personal Property Tax FY 2015 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Real Estate & Personal Property actual tax bills are being mailed with a payment due date of February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. The new tax rate is \$8.88. When submitting your payment(s) please be sure to include the bottom half of your bill.

Please note: Questions concerning your tax assessment MUST be directed to the Board of Assessors. 413-528-0182 ext 14 or assessors@egremont-ma.gov

On Line Banking - UNIPAY on line banking is a great tool for payments. Go to the Town of Egremont web site <a href="www.egremont-ma.gov/">www.egremont-ma.gov/</a> and click on pay your bills on line. Follow the instructions from that point. You will be able to use ACH or a credit card.

Office hours of the Tax Collector are 7am-3pm Monday thru Friday. 413-528-0182 ext. 12 Or email <a href="mailto:collector@egremont-ma.gov">collector@egremont-ma.gov</a>

# **Transfer Station & Recycling Center:**

Please note that the center is open Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, and Sunday 12noon to 4pm. The attendant cannot under law allow you to dump outside of these hours so please do not come early or late. Our operations are permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection and we can, and have been, fined for allowing dumping outside of the posted, permitted hours. Please plan accordingly and get to the center before closing, and not before opening.

Stickers are required to be allowed to utilize our center. In order to get a sticker you must be a property owner or a tenant. Stickers are obtained at the Town Hall during regular business hours or can be mailed upon request. New stickers are issued each July. Please make sure you get one as our attendant is required to turn you away if you don't have one.

Be respectful to your fellow residents and do not make our center a place to hang out and chat. If you feel the need to chat with your neighbors move your vehicle so that others can get to the facility.

Recycle, recycle, recycle - please. Not only does this help the environment, it saves you tax payer money - in hauling and tipping fees and in possible fines we may (and have been assessed on a few occasions) for non-compliance with the sorting requirements.

# **Egremont Historical Commission:**

In Memoriam: 2014 saw the passing of Margaret Candee, long standing member of the Historical Commission and the keeper of our town's stories. Her loss as a raconteur, and joyful member of our community will be felt. Our heartfelt thanks for all her great work.

2014 also saw the expansion of the use of the Archives. A new paint job, restored displays, and several wonderful shows, we ended the year with an SRO crowd to hear James Parrish and Gary Leveille speak about Olde Egremont Inc. and Major Hugh Smiley. For those of you who do not know of Major Smiley's influence, we hope to reprise this talk.

Mark Your Calendar: The Archives is pleased to announce Jim Parrish is coming back on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 11am, to speak on *Egremont at War* with artifacts, and images. More about this event to follow.

Start off the New Year with a Scanning morning. The Archives will be open on January 3<sup>rd,</sup> 2015 at 9am. The Commission will have its scanner up and running. If you have photo albums out for the holidays with shots of Egremont we can include in the archives, please bring them over. We are working to make this opportunity available the first Saturday of every month when the Archives are open. Contact us

if you have questions. We are looking to capture the spirit of Egremont from the 1950's through the 1980's for the record. Thanks for taking the time to share your images with your fellow residents.

# Board of Health: Brain Health

While thoughts of growing older may not be the happiest way to spend our time it is an inevitable part of life. Keeping our bodies physically fit is a well-known part of the aging process. Exercise keeps our weight in check as well as keeping bones, muscles and organs strong.

We all want to stay healthy and independent as we get older. Strong brain health is an often overlooked area of aging. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) developing a brain disease or injury as you age depends on a mix of your family's genes, your environment and your health choices:

- Genetic makeup
- Certain medicines, smoking and excessive alcohol
- Health problems like diabetes and heart disease
- Diseases like depression and Alzheimer's
- Brain injury
- Poor diet, insufficient sleep, lack of physical and social activity

Some risks to brain health cannot be controlled or prevented, like your genes. Others, like health choices, are under your control. For example, you can:

- 1. Take care of your health
- 2. Eat a healthy diet
- 3. Drink alcohol moderately, if at all
- 4. Get active and stay active
- 5. Sleep 7-8 hours each night
- 6. Learn new things
- 7. Connect with your family, friends and communities

So include brain health activities in your exercise routine. Stay involved with current events, keep reading, do word puzzles, join a bridge group.

# A Matter of Balance

Are you an Egremont senior or know of an Egremont senior who might be interested in registering for a free class to improve balance and reduce the risk of falling? The Board of Health is partnering with Egremont's Council on Aging and the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association to offer a clinic entitled "A Matter of Balance" an eight week two-hour class led by a trained facilitator designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults.

The dates, times and location are yet to be determined as they depend on the number of people who enroll. The class is limited to only 15 participants. Please call Juliette Haas at (413) 528-0182 x 22 with questions or to register.

# **Planning Board:**

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm, despite the snow storm, two hardy Egremont residents attended the Planning Board's Public Hearing on the proposed Medical Marijuana Overlay District bylaw. We appreciate their effort and input.

In 2015, in addition to the Board's usual business of answering residents' questions, holding hearings on special permits and on amendments to special permits, approving land division and boundary changes (Form A's), and so on, the Planning Board will continue working on creating new districts for our villages and rural areas.

Right now, as you probably know, Egremont has one zone known as the General Zone. It is a residential zone with business allowed by special permit. Developing different zones is a long-range land-use tool designed as the first step in preserving our beautiful rural areas and what is so warm and charming about our villages.

The main proposed revisions to our bylaw are simple and two-fold. First, we propose to reformat some of the dense paragraphs into more easily understood charts. Second, we propose to create two Village Districts and a Rural District, and to recommend appropriate frontages and setbacks for each Village. One purpose of these proposed revisions is to bring more village homes into conformity with the bylaw so that fewer special permits would be needed.

We will be inviting you to an informational meeting to explain the proposed changes and to hear your responses to them.

The Planning Board meets twice a month, usually on the second and fourth Mondays, at 7:30 pm. Please check the meeting postings. We welcome your visits.

# **Sustainability Coordinator:**

Egremont is a community that is very green, but we are not a Green Community. What's the difference, you ask? Well, if you want to know how we can take our established "greenness" and put it towards being eligible for \$125,000, please read on.

Currently, 136 cities and towns across the Commonwealth have demonstrated their commitment to the environment and have become designated Green Communities. They did this by meeting five benchmarks set by the state, three of which require a town meeting vote.

The first criterion is probably the most difficult, but it is still very acceptable for Egremont. It is passing a bylaw that adopts as-of-right siting, in designated locations, for renewable energy/alternative energy generation, research and development, or manufacturing. This may sound daunting in a community like ours with only one zone, but other small towns like ours have successfully passed it without negative impacts to their community. Currently, the town's Sustainability Coordinator is working with the Planning Board to finalize a draft bylaw that will be on the warrant at next May's town meeting.

The second criterion is adopting an expedited application/permitting process for renewable energy development or generation, as mentioned in criterion #1. If criterion #1 passes, criterion #2 is a given.

Criterion #3 does not need a town meeting vote but will need a commitment from the town to lower energy consumption in municipal buildings by 20% in 5 years. We are well on our way to doing this already, and the financial benefits of reducing energy consumption are a clear driving voice that benefits all.

Criterion #4 is to purchase only fuelefficient vehicles for town purposes. Because of our small size and small fleet of town vehicles, we already meet this criterion.

Criterion #5 is to require all new

residential construction greater than 3000 square feet to use an energy design code known as the Stretch Code. The current Building Code is very close to the Stretch Code, and the only major difference between the two is that the Stretch Code requires performance testing to ensure that the construction meets a certain level of air tightness. Many builders and homeowners have already embraced the Stretch Code, as the nominal added costs are soon recouped by the energy savings they deliver.

Don't worry: there will not be a test on this. But over the months before town meeting next May you will probably be hearing a lot about it. Informational meetings as well as required hearings will be held, which we hope you will attend to become informed on the requirements. Again, what is driving all of this work to become a Green Community is to demonstrate our commitment to being "green" and to be eligible for the program funding. Egremont would be eligible for \$125,000, which would be invested in energy-saving measures that reduce the town's energy costs. The savings could then be invested in other areas of our town budget.

Berkshires County towns that have already become Green Communities are Great Barrington, Lenox, Pittsfield, Williamstown, Lanesborough, Dalton, Becket and Richmond. With favorable town meeting votes next May, we will be able to add our name to that list.

# **Fire Department:**

Date	Time	Location	Туре
10/24	8:22 PM	Hillsdale Rd	Medical
10/26	2:21 PM	Egremont Plain	Medical
11/1	3:20 AM	Rt. 23 & Sheffield Rd.	Motor
		Vehicle Accident	
11/4	4:20 PM	Mt. Washington Town	1
		Hall	Medical
11/6	7:33 AM	East Rd Mt. Washington	
		Medical	
11/11	10:32 AM	Rt. 23 & NY Line	Medical
11/17	7:44 AM	Prospect Lake Rd.	Medical
11/18	12:33 PM	Under Mountain Rd.	Medical
11/22	7:16 PM	Mt. Washington Rd. @	<i>y</i> Bridge
Motor Vehicle Accident & Extrication			
11/23	12:28 PM	Main St. Al	arm/Fire
11/26	3:21 PM	Main St. Pole/Transformer	
		Fire	
11/26	5:00 PM	Second St Pole/Wires Down	
11/26	11:41 PM	Taconic Ln Pole/Wires Down	

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11/27 1:40 AM Under Mountain Rd. Alarm 12/2 9:05 AM Under Mountain Rd Alarm 12/3 11:29 AM Creamery Rd Alarm 12/5 2:34 AM Mt. Washington Rd Medical 12/7 7:28 PM Creamery Rd. Medical 12/15 12:02 AM General Knox Ln. Medical 12/15 8:12 AM Blunt Rd. Medical 12/16 6:37 PM Main St. Gas Leak

There have been a total of 154 calls this calendar year.

We hope everyone had a Happy Holiday and we are looking forward to a Happy New Year.

To be prepared for storms this winter have flashlights with fresh batteries, have water on hand as your well will not work in a power outage. If you see wires down stay far away from them. Even if they look dead they can be deadly.

# **Egremont Green Committee:**

Many Egremonters wanted to take advantage of SolarizeMass but couldn't, for one reason or another, install solar panels on their house. Join the Green Committee to hear about some other interesting ways of going solar.

We have scheduled an informational meeting on alternative energy supply sources for residential use in our area. The meeting will be held on **January 24th at 10 AM** at the North Fire Station (park in front of Town Hall and walk over, or call us for a ride – Pat 644-8982, or Marj 528-3726).

Representatives from two firms, Viridian and Community Energy, will explain how we can direct National Grid to source some of their power supplies from renewable sources. National Grid has another option through their GreenUp Program; joining GreenUp results in an additional (but tax-deductible) charge on your NatGrid bill. In all cases, making the switch is easy and helps to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

Please spread the word and join us on Jan 24th. Bring your NatGrid bill (or a copy), and please park at Town Hall.

# **Council on Aging:**

The Egremont Council on Aging is cosponsoring with the Board of Health 'A Matter

of Balance' which is a series of eight classes to help a person maintain balance which in turn helps to prevent falls. Please sign up with Juliette Haas at 528-0182 ext 22, or email her at <a href="mailto:jhaas@egremont-ma.gov">jhaas@egremont-ma.gov</a>. Once fifteen people have enrolled, a time will be arranged to accommodate the group.

The next Movie in the Afternoon event at the Egremont Village Inn will be on January 7; the movie will be "Twelve Angry Men". The February 4 movie will be "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid". Please make a note of these dates!

We had a really nice Intergenerational Holiday Sing and Party yesterday at the Egremont Village Inn, sponsored by the Council on Aging. So many people contributed to its success, I want to send out this public "Thank You". They all really deserve recognition for helping to make us a more inclusive community.

Georgette Kinney arranged for most of the refreshments and took charge of the organizing. Bonni Chester contributed delicious chocolate chip and oatmeal/walnut cookies. Since our town is small, we have begun a liaison with the Mt. Washington COA. Dianne Salamon contributed a huge number of sandwiches, and Cory Hines rounded up several Mt. Washington COA members to insure their attendance. We are looking forward to future collaborations. Thirty two of us were there, but we had enough food for twice that amount......"just in case you came". Do consider attending our next function. We miss you and would like to welcome you.

Eileen Johnson led the singing, both with her beautiful voice and the music she provided. Harriet Rothstein accompanied on the piano, and was later joined by Sara Keene for a very special piano duet.

Penny Pitts arranged children's activities, including Face Painting, and Helen Krancer saw to it that things ran smoothly.

# **Board of Assessors:**

Abatements: Real Estate Tax bills are in the mail. Property owners have 30 days after the issue date of the bill to apply for an abatement.

Fiscal Year 2015 Tax Rate: The Fiscal Year 2015 tax rate is \$8.88.

The Assessor page on the town website has links to state forms and tax information. You can also access the geographical information system to see tax

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maps. If you have any questions please give us a call or send us an email.

Assessor Office: 413 528-0182 ext 14; email is assessors@egremont-ma.gov

# **Broadband Update:**

The WiredWest fiber-optic broadband network is moving toward becoming a reality.

While the precise financing is being worked out, the financial realities of building a network will require that any town which wants to be a part of the network will need to be able to guarantee a subscriber base of at least 40% of the households in the town before WiredWest will be able to actually install the network. To assure this level of subscriber guarantee people who want to be connected to the network will need to sign a contract and make a deposit to show that they are serious subscribers. The exact deposit amount is being determined, but is expected to be a modest amount, and will be announced in January, 2015. These deposits will be placed in an escrow account and will be refunded if a subscriber moves before the network is activated.

We should all keep in mind, that the process by which a town is selected to be wired will be strongly influenced by the percentage of committed subscribers. Two years ago, when WiredWest had their "support card campaign" Egremont was the 2nd most successful town with just over 65% of the households indicating interest in being connected to the network. The higher the percentage of committed households the faster the network is likely to be built! So, when the application for a contract is presented the more people who sign up the faster Egremont will be connected. Please do not assume that you can wait till the service is built to sign up as your delay may likely cause a delay in having the network connected here! Furthermore, those who sign up early will of course be connected first as they have already shown their commitment. Sign up early and tell your friends to do so as well.

# Friends of Prospect Lake: Let them eat cake!

Marie Antoinette apparently never actually made this cold hearted remark, but an energetic crew of Friends of Prospect Lake can say it with gusto. Local kitchens turned out chocolate fudge and rum cakes to order as the winter holidays approached. 77 cakes have been delivered to date, with more to come. The bakers have so far deposited \$1,739 in the Friends' bank account (\$94 of that donations), versus some \$400 spent for ingredients. A special note of thanks is due to Frank at the North Egremont General Store for hosting the cake tastings and then providing the site where most cakes are delivered and picked up.

# Tag ... you're it!

The Friends held their annual Tag Sale at the end of this past summer, and had a very good day. The weather was perfect, the goods and buyers were both abundant, and the event brought in just over \$4,130. Its expenses were just \$200, plus loads of time and effort by the crew that got the items ready for sale and then manned the table on the day itself. Once again, the North Egremont General Store played a key and very welcome role by letting us use its front property to spread out the goods for sale.

A general word seems in order about the finances of the Friends of Prospect Lake. The above two fund raising events provide roughly a third of what the group spends annually on lake cleaning and management. Our membership drive plus donations generates another third. And the Town of Egremont's generous grant fills out the final third of the budget. Without the work and time and generosity behind all this, the lake would be truly choked with weeds and flush with algae.

# Eagles, etc.

Prospect Lake is still graced by the occasional presence of a pair of bald eagles. They now and again come swooping over the lake, often stirring up a raucous chorus of cawing from the resident crows. The eagles have other company, too. The robins are gone, but jays and cardinals and others tough out the winter with the rest of us. On a memorable day late in November, the middle of the lake was mobbed by what looked like a thousand ducks and geese floating in the water. No reason for this phenomenon was apparent, the birds offered no explanation, and they were mostly gone the next day.

# The Ice Age

The Berkshires hit a short, sharp cold spell in the latter half of November, and Prospect Lake promptly responded with a thin skin of ice around the shoreline – open water in the center and several feet of ice around the edges. A few ducks and geese climbed up on that thin ice and waddled, slipped, and 7 Issue 79

skidded their way around. Harbingers of the skaters who will show up once the ice thickens and covers the whole lake – some fast and graceful, some as wobbly as ducks.

More than skaters will come. Last winter there was an ice boat or two. And every winter the lake draws groups of ice fishermen. Fisher families would be a more accurate term, because there sure look like there are families out there – chairs, little huts, tents, even charcoal grills, and plenty of kids. Augers drill holes where the flagged tip-ups are placed for the fish swimming below. Warmly bundled owners watch for those flags to bob, then haul out the catch, some for eating, some for tossing back. For anyone interested in learning about ice fishing – or maybe thinking of trying it out – there's a very engaging and informative article in the Feb. 2014 issue of Berkshire Magazine. It even includes a short list of clever safety tips for those of us who worry about going through the ice (we really needn't worry once it thickens to at least 4 inches says the Commonwealth's Fisheries and Wildlife Office.)

# Weeds and Their Management

The Friends have employed Lycott, a lake management firm, for the last several years. They have guided our decision making with their professional expertise and carried out the tasks that require specialized equipment or knowledge. We locals can measure temperature and lucidity and weed locations, but we don't have airboats or the experience of negotiating DEP bureaucracy and permitting. Just recently, in what for us is a momentous development, Lycott merged with a larger limnology firm, ACT - Aquatic Control Technology. So we have new advisors and new approaches to deal with, both very healthy for our understanding of lake management and the work it entails. The weeds keep coming, and we need to do the same. We'll do so now with fresh perspectives.

# **First Congregational Church:**

The First Congregational Church of South Egremont will hold a Chicken Pie Supper January 31 from 5:30-7 p.m. Adults \$12 and children age 5-10 \$5. In case of a bad storm the

supper will be postponed to February 7. Please listen to WSBS for postponement announcements.

# **Egremont Garden Club**

Holiday Wreaths

Members of the Egremont Garden Club met at the South Egremont Fire House on Saturday, December 6. As we have for the past 20 years, members gathered to make holiday wreaths for the public buildings in both the North and South Villages. Wreaths were hung at the South Egremont Post Office, the Egremont Free Library, the South Egremont School, both North and South Fire Stations, the South Egremont Congregational Church, Town Hall, and Police Department. Also, we make "Mugs of Cheer" and baskets for the Meals on Wheels Program for the Senior Center in Great Barrington.

This Wreath Workshop takes place every year at the South Fire Station on the first Saturday in December. We would love to have you join us! Also, we always welcome donations of greens to make the wreaths.

The Egremont Garden Club always welcomes new members. Please contact one of our members or call 528-3605.

We hope our wreaths bring a smile to your face and brighten your holiday!

# Meeting schedule:

Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon & by appointment

Council on Aging - Third Thursday of each month at 1pm. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday- 8am to 1pm, Tuesday 8:30am to 12pm & 12:30 to 2:30pm, Wednesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm. Meetings - Thursdays as posted 9am to 11am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Monday evenings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Other times and inspections by appointment Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays 7:00pm

Finance Committee - Wednesdays 5:30pm January through April. Other times as needed.

8 Issue 79 Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474 Planning Board - Second & Fourth Monday 7:30pm School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt. Everett High School Library Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm Town Clerk - Every other Tuesday evenings 6pm-8pm, Tuesday mornings 9am to 12noon or by appointment Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm Water Department - Meetings second Thursday 4:30pm at Town Hall Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed To reach a board member or to leave a message please call the Town Hall 528-0182. **Business listings:** In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall. Prospect Lake Park and Campground camping, swimming 413-528-4158 prospectlk@aol.com www.prospectlakepark.com Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach. The Silo B&B - guest accommodations 413-528-5195 The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B 1 Prospect Lake Road 413-528-2882 www.innsweetwater.com The Egremont Village Inn - Lodging 413-528-9580 John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant 413-528-3469 Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-Restaurant & Lodging

413-528-6200

www.swisshutte.com

January, 2015 Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs. Robin Walther 116 Egremont Plain Road 413-528-2537 robinschaircaning@gmail.com Howard's Antiques - Antique Lighting & Restoration 413-528-1232 www.howardsantiquelighting.com Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal polishing 413-528-3230 Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects 195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23) 413-528-5383 www.homeasianantiques.com 41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and decorative objects. 413-528-0112 www.41mainantiques.com Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding Lessons, summer programs www.bluerider.org 413-528-5299 Green River Arabians & Pintos -Horse Boarding, lessons, judging. 413-528-2367 arabpinto 13@yahoo.com Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) & Farmers Markets 413-528-8301 www.indianlinefarm.com Ivory Pond Farm -Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane Rug Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and supplies. Tom & Liz Marino 413-528-9465 www.lizmarinorughooking.com Llamama@wildblue.net Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road, open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week. 413-528-5710 B&S Gventer "Books & Ephemera" - Buy & Sell Books http://blaize.com/ 413-429-7467

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For The Passing of Margaret Candee by Stanley Farnum (Margaret was a long time resident and expert on Egremont's history.)

The light of day passes into night
And I sit along storm tossed,
For quietly comes stealing a saddened hour
Remembering the fair girl I have lost.

How can words alone explain What lies within the heart For therein always will remain The sorrow when we part.

The last of my line except for me Dear cousin, Dear girl, Dear friend, But for Margaret and for all who mourn Have faith, this is not the end.

We pass from here to another land
Of beauty, peace, and love
So though you now may shed your tears
A gentle guardian awaits above.

Together as children were Meg and I We played all the games of the gang, The doctors and cowboys and all kids games And it seemed all days were sunny and warm And to us the whole world sang.

> We took the happy song of life From every fleeing day Nor counted how the sum went up To pass the years away.

But fate sits in the shadows And smiles a quiet smile Knowing youth and happiness Are ours for but a while.

For all life's journey is but one long day, Now the light of our Margaret has passed away. She ran a great race, she fought a good fight; And so girl dear - Dear girl, good night.



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